

The year is coming to an end. Many subscriptions expire this month. If your time is out and you wish the paper continued, please renew at once.

VOL. XIV.

DR. THOMPSON
AND THE CHURCH.

Some Historic Facts Concerning
the Relation of the Church
to Slavery

FREEDOM AND ITS MEANING

statements Explaining the Truth of the
Famous Remark—Thompson, Not the
Alliance, Responsible—The Methods by
which the Church Can Command the
Love and Support of the Masses.

Number Two.]

My critics have so confidently asserted, and based their attacks upon the assumption that the Church and Christianity are identical, the truth of which I have denied, that it may not be thought amiss to inquire if the character of the Church in the past has been such as to command unreserved reverence.

Jesus had taught and Paul had

preached the individual relationship

of the soul to God, on account of

which their followers made much for

a time of personal belief and opinion.

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was allowed among Christians.

Every man was to enter the Church and control it. In the year 312, by imperial edict, Christianity and all religions were tolerated, out of regard, it was said, for the sacred rights of conscience.

The growing strength of

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NO PAPER NEXT WEEK.

This issue of THE CAUCASIAN will be the last that will be sent to those whose subscriptions expire this month. We hope we have been, at least, partially successful in making the paper acceptable to its readers during the past year. We earnestly ask those who desire its continuation to send in their renewals AT ONCE. We would like to begin the new year with no liabilities, and our friends and our people can put us in this position with little personal trouble. Our work and anxieties are sufficiently heavy without the additional worry over what sometimes seems to be the indifference and slowness of our friends. Therefore if the Populist of this State wish their State organ to be aggressive and vigorous, let it see that it is being properly backed up and sustained; and let that backing show material substance within the next two weeks.

* * *
There will be no issue of THE CAUCASIAN during Christmas week. Those who conduct it have been quite severely taxed for some months past, and a short respite is both necessary and deserved. We wish everybody a delightful Christmas, and hope everyone can see the dawning of a better and more generous condition of affairs with the beginning of the New Year.

STRIKING OBJECT LESSONS.

(No. 1.) About two months ago Capt. S. A. Ashe, who is a well equipped journalist, started a paper in Raleigh called "The State." Capt. Ashe showed clearly in his editorials each week that hard times and low prices were caused by the gold-standard chiefly, and that times would never be better till we had more money; but at the same time he called upon the people to stay in the Democratic party even if they had to vote for a goldbug candidate for President. He said he did not want more money and better times unless he could get it through the Democratic party.

* * *
The paper has suspended. It died in a few weeks because the people would not subscribe for it or read it.

The goldites say that this is proof that the silver sentiment is dying out. Not so! On the other hand it is proof of how well informed the people are and how strong their convictions are on this financial question.

* * *
Capt. Ashe's paper was ably edited and if anyone could have made a paper, advocating such an inconsistent position, self-sustaining, he could. No paper advocating such a policy can run in North Carolina unless it is supported by corporation or goldbug money. The goldbugs will gladly put up money to run a free silver paper, if that paper will advise the people to stay in the old parties and vote for the goldbug nominees of the old parties.

We don't know whether the gold men offered to put up money for Capt. Ashe's paper or not, but it is clear that he did not take their money if they did.

* * *
If Capt. Ashe had said that he favored free silver and financial reform and called upon the people to stand by the resolution passed at the silver convention in Raleigh, on Sept. 25th, and to vote against goldbugs no matter what party nominated them, his paper would have been a big success. The people are tired of being humbugged.

* * *
NO. 2.—BLAND AND HIS LECTURE.
Some days ago Ex-Congressman Bland started on a lecturing tour. His first appointment was at Savannah, Ga. He advertised that his subject would be, "Why free silver men should stay in the Democratic party."

When he went to Savannah to speak on such an absurd subject, only one man went out to hear him. The gold men say that this is proof that the silver sentiment is dying out. Not so! It is proof that the people are tired of being humbugged on this question.

* * *
If this had been done, the Senate would have passed a free coinage bill in thirty days. Senator Butler has done the people a great service in showing up the insincerity of the men who claim to be for silver but who are willing for gold men to control and rule. Such men are simply decoy ducks for the goldites. They do the silver cause more harm than if they were avowed goldbugs.

Senator Butler has done his duty.

TOBACCO TRUST DEAL.

The American Tobacco Trust has been dictating the price of tobacco—freezing out small dealers and monopolizing things generally for some time past. Now it is working

that prices were falling and that all business was stagnated except money-lending and speculating. He said that this country could never see better times till that policy was changed and more money was put into circulation. When he made this speech the goldbug papers jumped on him. They called him a Populist and a crank. We suppose the goldbugs thought that Senator Vest intended to vote the way he talked.

* * *
A few days ago Senator Vest came out in an interview in which he said that as much as he opposed the gold standard, that if his party nominated a goldbug for President that he would vote for him. Presto change! Now all the goldbug papers are praising Vest and saying that he is a "good fellow after all"—even the Republican goldbug papers are pleased with him. Why is this? Because as long as free silver Republicans say that they will vote for the goldbug nominee of their party and silver Democrats say they will vote for the goldbug nominee of their party, the gold men are safe and will control.

In fact these silver Republicans and silver Democrats are worth more to the goldbugs than if they were goldbugs themselves. They act as decoy ducks for the goldbugs. They fool the silver voters at home into supporting goldbugs for the Presidency.

* * *
CAN'T OR WON'T KEEP THINGS STRAIGHT.

That is quite direct evidence which we publish in the Observer to-day, in which a gentleman, writing over his own signature, denies the statement of THE CAUCASIAN that he has paid his dues for subscriptions and says that it comes to him unasked for.—Charles Ober.

The Observer shows great carelessness or either great meanness by the above paragraph. It seeks to leave the impression that THE CAUCASIAN denies that it has no unpaid subscriptions and yet quotes a man as saying "that it comes to him unasked for," intending to make it appear that THE CAUCASIAN has made a false statement. The grammar of the Observer is about as groggy as its effort to put THE CAUCASIAN in a false light. To begin with the gentleman writing over his own signature "does not deny the statement of THE CAUCASIAN that it has no unpaid for subscriptions. He simply says he did not subscribe. Well then, somebody subscribed for him and sent us the money, and to save us we could not tell who sent it without a considerable search through our files. We presume there have been numerous instances in which some reader of THE CAUCASIAN has sent the paper to an acquaintance or friend. Do the readers of the Observer think enough of that paper to do the same thing or not?

Try to get things right, Bro. Caldwell. It's just as easy to do as to tell them wrong, if you know how. We say again that we are not sending out papers unless they are paid for at the rate asked.

* * *
THE PENSION GRAB.

The pension grappers' continue to reach out for all there is in sight, and the people will continue to "pay the freight." The number of pension bills introduced during the first week of Congress was pretty considerable. In fact if all bills of the nature of pension bills be included the number is immense. In the machinery of Congress there are varied terms for bills of the same character. For instance an immense number of them is presented "for the relief of" Mr. or Mrs. So-and-so, and while these are not termed pension bills, they are in reality nothing else, for they are intended as grabs at the people's public money. These bills, introduced during the first week of Congress, are the result of a number of pension bills which have been introduced during the first week of Congress. In fact if all bills of the nature of pension bills be included the number is immense. In the machinery of Congress there are varied terms for bills of the same character. 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Dr. Thompson and the Church.

(Continued from 1st page.)

were since the fall of the Roman empire. We know that these hosts were composed of men inflamed by bigotry and unrestrained by discipline; that they provided for all their wants by the sword, living at the expense of the country, and seizing at their pleasure both the harvests of the peasants and the merchandise of the citizens. More than three-fourths of the landed proprietors had been poached upon by these hosts, and the property of their farms and castles, in hundreds of villages every inhabitant had been massacred. Since the sack of Rome by the Vandals, the European world had never mourned over a national disaster so wide in its extent or fearful in its character." Such was the spirit and work of the Church.

If the free spirit of Christ and its moral influence had spread equally with the theology of the Church and its ruthless power, the Church would have aided instead of retarding the progress of human freedom. "While the religion of the world underwent a total change," says Milman, "the Church rose of the ruins of the temple and the establishment of Paganism became gradually extinct or suffered violent suppression; the moral revolution was far more slow and far less complete. While they swept in converts indiscriminately from the pagans and the infidels, while the emperors and the lowest of the populace were alike admitted on little more than the open profession of allegiance, they were satisfied if their allegiance in this respect were blind and complete. The common vulgar incentives of action were infused into the expanding Christian body. Men became Christians, orthodox Christians, with little sacrifice of that which Christianity aimed chiefly to extricate."

Clovis, King of the Franks, for instance, was converted in 496. "His conversion made no alteration in the policy and conduct of Clovis: he remained the same mixture of cunning and audacity, of cruelty and sensuality." There followed the wholesale conversion of his people, who carried through their baptism into the Church their heathen superstitions and their barbarous notions. In the midst of times of persecution and suffering, were cited by Godly men as evidence of the divine displeasure at the debarcancy of the Church; whose condition was such that it was found necessary to prohibit in successive Councils the most heinous and unmentionable crimes committed both by the laity and by the clergy. And this degree of immorality continued and was not lacking in the Church at a time when the Church was not only the most powerful, but the only powerful organization in the civilized world.

From the closing years of the 9th until the middle of the 11th century, according to J. H. Newman, "no exaggeration is possible of the demoralized state into which the Christian world, and especially the Church of Rome, had fallen. The tenth century is over known among Protestants as par excellence the age of sin, and Barrows expresses its portentous corruption in the vivid remark that Christ was as asleep in the vessel of the Church. The infamies prevalent among the clergy of the time are to be abominated, not detailed." Read the history of some of the popes. In the time of John XII., "the Lateran Palace was disgraced by becoming a receptacle for courtisans; and decent females," says Bowden, "were terrified from pilgrimages to the threshold of the Apostles by the reports spread abroad of the lawless impurity and violence of their representative and successor." The papal treasury was plundered by Boniface VII., who skipped, like a modern bank cashier, to Constantinople. John XVIII. would have sold his sacred office to the Emperor Basil for a sum of money. Benedict IX., consecrated Pope while a mere boy, "became notorious for murders and adulteries." He sold the papedom for a large sum and consecrated the purchaser as God's vicegerent. Head of the Church. "The world," said St. Bruno, "lay in wickedness, holiness had disappeared, justice had perished, and truth had been buried; Simon Magus lording it over the Church, whose bishops and priests were given to luxury and fornication."

The condition in the 15th century was no wise improved. It is considered the darkest period of papal vice and crime. Roderigo Borgia purchased the suffrages of the highest dignitaries of the Church to become Pope Alexander VI., putting to flight those who dared to oppose his election. By the infamous Vanozza, the wife of a Roman citizen, he had three sons, and naturally enough permitted clergy and laity to keep concubines, saying that it was not forbidden, since the life of priests and ecclesiastics was such that hardly one was to be found who did not keep a concubine. "All ecclesiastics, from the greatest to the least, were concubines, and that publicly," quotes Taine; "if God hinder it not, this corruption will pass to the monks and religious orders; although, to confess the truth, almost all the monasteries have become bawd-houses, without anyone to speak against it." Such immorality the Church permitted and indulged in. Yet its devotees called it the Church of Christ; and it was not prudent to criticize its conduct, as a brief view of Wycliffe, Jerome of Prague and Huss, Savonarola, Luther and other Reformers will abundantly prove.

CYRUS THOMPSON.

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THE HEAVENS IN DECEMBER.

Some Very Interesting and Plain Facts on Astronomy Written Expressly for the Caucasian—Lunar Eclipse on the 21st—Eclipses of the Sun on the 21st—Extraordinary Beauty of the Winter Sky.

The moon's phases during the month of December will be as follows: Full on the 2nd, last quarter on the 9th, new moon on the 16th, first quarter on the 24th, and full moon again on the 31st. Of all the heavenly bodies the moon, next to the sun, is the most important to us. The moon is larger than the sun, being only about 1/40th that of the earth; but owing to its proximity to the earth it exerts a considerable influence upon the latter. This influence manifests itself by two important phenomena, viz., the tides and the precession of the equinoxes. The tides are due to the moon's attempt to raise a tide to that of the sun as the ratio of 5:2. If the moon and sun are in a straight line with the earth, or to use the language of science, when they are in conjunction and opposite, the tides are equal to the sum of the lunar and solar tides. These are known as the spring tides. When the moon is at the times of the first and last quarter, each of these two attractions raises a tide at the expense of the other, and these are known as the neap tides.

On the 9th there will be in perigee, and on the 23rd in apogee. It may not be amiss to remark here as to what is meant by perigee and apogee. That point in the moon's orbit nearest to the earth, is called her perigee, and that point furthest from the earth, her apogee. This is a conjunction of the moon with Neptune on the 2nd, with Jupiter on the 16th, with Venus on the 12th, with Herschel and Saturn on the 13th, with Mars on the 1st, and with Mercury on the 15th. The Astronomical winter begins on the 21st at minimum past 10 o'clock p.m., which is the winter solstice.

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